

Message Text

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21

ACTION IO-11

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5844

INFO CINCPACREP GUAM UNN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0552

DEPT PLEASE PASS DOTA AND OMSN

CINCPACREP GUAM PLEASE PASS HICOM AND STATUS LNO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TQ, FR, CN

SUBJ: NORTHERN MARIANAS: DRAFT FRENCH STATEMENT ON COMOROS

REF: USUN 488

1. DURING HIS STATEMENT IN SECURITY COUNCIL (SC) ON COMOROS
ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, FRENCH PERMREP DE GUIRINGAUD
MADE FOLLOWING REFERENCE TO QUESTION OF SELF-DETERMINATION:

QUOTE

IS IT NOT OBVIOUS THAT EVERYWHERE IN THE WORLD THE
POSSIBILITY OF CHOOSING ONE'S OWN DESTINY IS ACKNOWLEDGED
AS BELONGING TO ENTITIES DETERMINED BY HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY?
DO WE NOT ALL AGREE, ARE WE NOT ALL AWARE, THAT MISUNDER-
STANDINGS CAN ARISE IN THE CASE OF AN ARCHIPELAGO
(ASTERISK) OR, TO TAKE CONTINENTAL EXAMPLES, THE CASES OF
BANGLADESH AND BELIZE? THOSE EXAMPLES CONFIRM THAT SELF-
DETERMINATION IS THE SUPREME PRINCIPLE, EVEN IF ITS IS NOT
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THE ONLY ONE AND EVEN IF POLITICAL WISDOM DICTATES

AVOIDANCE, WHERE POSSIBLE, OF WAHT IS KNOWN AS THE BALKANIZATION
OF REGIONS WHICH HAVE SOME INTEREST IN REMAINING HOMOGENEOUS.
END QUOTE

AS ORIGINALLY DRAFTED IN THE FRENCH TEXT, THE STATEMENT
CONTAINED A REFERENCE TO THE MARIANAS AND THE GILBERT
ISLANDS AT THE POINT INDICATED BY AN ASTERISK. THE ADDITIONAL
PHRASE (BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION BY FRENCH MISOFF), WHICH
DE GUIRINGAUD DELETED, READ: "WITNESS THE CASE OF THE MARIANAS
AND THAT OF THE GILBERTS."

2. COMMENT: THE MOST IMPORTANT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE
CASE OF MAYOTTE AND THAT OF THE MARIANAS IS THAT REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, ALTHOUGH HAVING PREVIOUSLY
EXPRESSED OPPOSITION, ARE ON RECORD AS NOT REPEAT NOT
OPPOSING THE NORTHERN MARIANAS COVENANT.
BENNETT

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